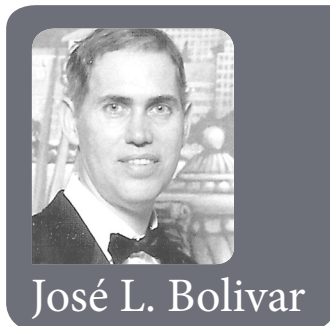


Roosevelt Roads Naval Station

The Naval Base of Ceiba, named Roosevelt Roads after President Franklin D. Roosevelt, was intended to become the major fleet operating base of the Caribbean during the Second World War. Initially, it was to be equipped with a protected anchorage, a battleship graving dock, major repair facilities, fuel depot, supply depot, hospital, a major air station for airplanes and seaplanes, and numerous other shore-based activities. These were to provide the necessary supporting services for 60 percent of the Atlantic Fleet. The Arundel Corporation, after completing the construction of the Naval Base at Isla Grande, was contracted to build the Vieques-Ceiba complex, which would end up costing in the neighborhood of \$108 million.

In the early summer of 1941, the development of Roosevelt Roads was awarded to The Arundel Corporation on a fixed-fee contract. The initial project at Ceiba included the dredging channels from the mainland sites into Vieques Passage, the construction of approximately 14 miles of breakwater to provide a sheltered anchorage for the fleet, a battleship graving dock with complete accessories, a bombproof power plant, a large machine shop, and the construction plant and equipment necessary to accomplish a program of this magnitude. The breakwater was not completed. Only the Mosquito pier at Vieques — 7,000 feet of the breakwater — was built before the project was abandoned in 1943 as progressive allied victories assured their success in the war effort, and the Caribbean submarine menace had subsided.

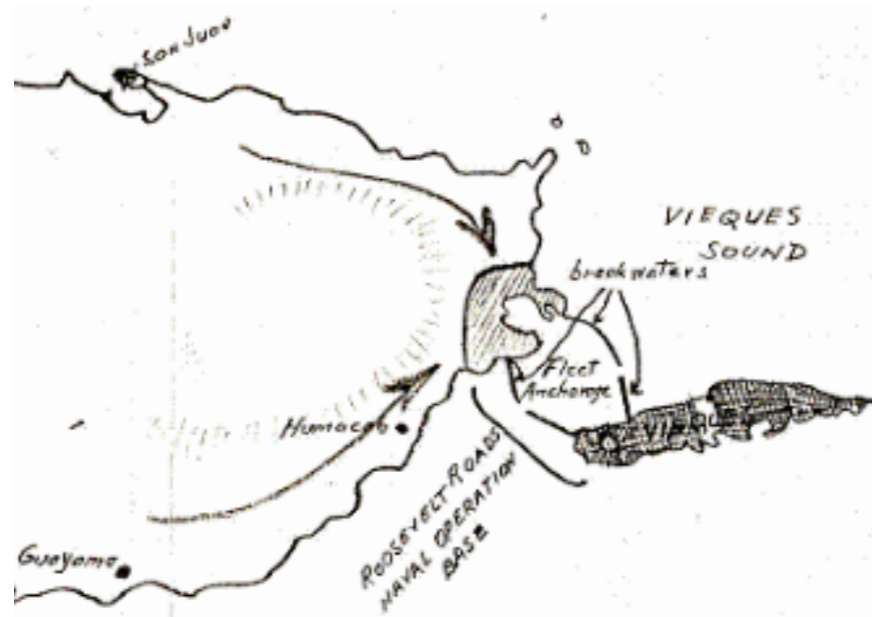
The entry of the United States into the war had brought about changes in the plans for Roosevelt Roads. During February 1942, work was started on the section base, a 120-unit housing project, and an extensive system of



José L. Bolívar

roads designed to link the various shore activities then underway. Within the industrial area the drydock, a bombproof power plant, a sewage pumping station, and a machine shop were completed, along with a power plant, a bombproof structure with 4-foot-thick concrete walls, and two 5,000-kw steam-driven generators. The base also included three concrete runways, 6,000 by 300 feet, concrete taxiways and parking area, a large steel hangar, quarters for personnel, a large concrete storehouse, gasoline storage, and magazines for ready ammunition.

The water-supply system obtained water from the Puerto Rico Water Works Authority Power Plant located on the Río Blanco. It was delivered through 11 miles of 27-inch concrete pipe by gravity to a 46,000,000-gallon raw-water reservoir in Ceiba. It was then treated so that freshwater could be distributed to the entire base. The treatment plant had a daily capacity of 4,000,000 gallons.



Field work under the contract was terminated on August 28, 1943. Roosevelt Roads was commissioned as a naval operating base on July 15, 1943; more than a year later, on November 1, 1944, it was redesignated a naval station and placed in a caretaker status under the supervision of a public works officer, assisted by a small detachment of military and local personnel.

José L. Bolívar holds a doctorate in history and is completing a book on the economic impact of World War II on Puerto Rico, which is scheduled to be published this year by the University of Florida. He may be reached at jbolivarpr@prtc.net.

VOICES

In agreement

I carefully read Mr. Franklin's letter and I wholeheartedly agree with his comments. I was a practicing physician in Virginia and I never had more than 2 patients waiting to be seen. I was visiting a physician here in Ponce for a preoperative work-up and twice I had to wait over 4 hours before being seen! I believe that there has to be a better way to practice medicine here in Puerto Rico.

*Prudencio Méndez Moll, MD, FACS
from Ponce on September 2*

Constitutional palaver and deceit

Again, the FBI could've easily staked out Filiberto Ojeda and jumped him and handcuffed him because Ojeda had no idea they were coming for him. He's dead because the federal government wanted him dead.

Justice would've been better served had there been a trial. Does the United States stand for Constitutional government or don't they?

*Samaria Salcedo
from Caparra Hts on September 2*

Consider the source

Pedro Rosselló, is calling now for a constitutional amendment on the right to health.

The same person who destroyed our health system by selling out CDT's and imposing multi-billion dollar health card responsible for government bankruptcy for generations to come.

Former Governor Carlos Romero repealed compulsory membership of the local bar association cause while being accused and persecuted by the Legislature as the mastermind on the Cerro Maravilla entrapment, assassination and cover up the bar didn't defend him. Hell-oooooooooooo!

Quotable quotes for which we have to consider

the source.

Thank you very much.

*Carmen Amalia Dávila
from Condado on September 3*

Give Signs Meaning

A red light or stop sign means stop your vehicle. Violation of those signs means danger of an accident with personal injury, and/or vehicle damage, a ticket, loss of time and a rise in insurance rates. Fortunately, few drivers risk those consequences, but the few that do are far too many and endanger others.

Curbs painted yellow, fire hydrants, bus stops, no parking signs, loading zone only mean no parking here. But illegally parked, sitting duck, vehicles adjacent to these clear signs defy enforcement. Yet law enforcement is an effective tool as the following will demonstrate.

The intersection area of Avenida De Diego and Calle Loiza was razed of old structures and replaced by open space and a new upscale commercial/residential building.

Coincidentally the curbs of Avenida De Diego were repainted yellow and no parking signs re-erected. The curb lanes formally obstructed with illegally parked vehicles are now clear for two lane traffic flow in each direction. Why? The signs were given meaning. Illegally parked vehicles were and are ticketed consistently.

The curb lanes of Avenida De Diego in front of Minillas Center/Museum of Art suffered the same illegally parking maze. Until recently, when a cadre of DTOP personnel started to ticket illegally parked vehicles which opened two lanes in each direction.

Why? The signs were given enforcement meaning.

However, for some reason the DTOP personnel don't extend their good work on Avenida De Diego from Minillas Center to Avenida Ponce De Leon? The curb lanes from Minillas Center to Avenida Ponce De

Leon are obstructed with illegally parked vehicles, even clearly marked government vehicles.

Enforcing parking laws may seem trivial. Until you see a wheelchair bound person, or a mother with a baby stroller or toddlers veer into the dangerous street to get around vehicles parked on the sidewalk!

Fortunately most drivers park legally in pay parking lots. But there are some drivers with an attitude to park where and when they want along yellow curbs, in front of a fire hydrants or no parking signs, at intersections blocking the view, on sidewalks, in drive ways, in front of bus stops, as well as flasher double parking. Just generally defying law enforcement.

That type of parking attitude needs a major adjustment of enforced sign meaning through out San Juan and Puerto Rico in general.

Enforcement is needed to ticket illegally parked vehicles and to ensure a new registration can not be purchased until the fine is paid. Enforcement will: put money into the general fund; ease traffic congestion; and increase pedestrian walking safety.

Enforcement can be done by meter persons that could write 10 -12 tickets per hour with a \$25 fine per ticket. And there will be no shortage of illegally parked vehicles until like on Avenida De Diego drivers start to get the message ... park here if you want a parking ticket! Perhaps if an illegal parking fine equaled the average monthly parking lot fee fewer driver would chance the cost of a few hours of illegal parking?

Enforcement for the signs gives law the meaning needed! Since it is working on most of Avenida De Diego target Ponce De Leon and Fernández Juncos for illegal parking clean up next.

*Tom Lewis
from San Juan on September 5*

Disclaimer: Remarks on this page belong strictly to the writers and do not necessarily represent the views of the PR Daily Sun. Please keep letters to 250 words so space is available for others' Voices.